

1 December 1980

READING 5

'LAW OF THREE' (continued)

The solution to all the problems affecting human life will ultimately be found in the comprehension of the interaction of the two laws. 'Law of Octaves' (governing patterns or successions of events) and 'Law of Three' governing the genesis of any single event. There might be many different reasons which would impel individuals or groups at different times to make this interaction their chief subject of study. But for all of us now who either enjoy meditation only or combine it with knowledge from the fully Realized men, there is one over-riding reason which alone will be strong enough to make us go on until we realize it. This over-riding reason is to achieve liberation by experiencing that *unity* which permeates, yet lies *beyond* all the diversity we experience.

So for this last week of meetings in 1980, concentrate on the expression of that Deva-ishta given in the second half (from verse 19) of Chapter XIV of the Gita, remembering that this inspired writing had been passed on by word of mouth for perhaps 2,000 years before the first Shankaracharya wrote his commentaries 25 centuries ago:

The Law of Nature brings forth three (entirely different) kinds of Force (Gunas) which fetter the free spirit ('My Self' says Shri Krishna) in all beings.

Leaving aside all definitions let us take the word 'Gunas' to mean Triads or combinations of these three kinds of Force, which are always present.

Lord Krishna is speaking:

19. 'As soon as a man understands that it is only the Gunas which act, and perceives that which is beyond, he attains My divine nature.
20. 'When the soul (Antahkarana) transcends the Gunas, which are the real cause of physical existence, then, freed from birth and death and from the misery of old age, he quaffs the nectar of immortality.'
21. Arjuna asked: 'My Lord. By what signs can he who has transcended the Gunas be recognized? How does he act? How does he live beyond them?'
22. Lord Krishna replied: 'That man, O Prince, who shuns not the combination predominating at that moment and does not long for those that are not;
23. 'Who maintains an attitude of Detachment; who is not disturbed by the changing triads, realizing that it is only the Gunas that are operating, and remains calm;
24. 'Who accepts pleasure or pain as it comes, is centred in his own spirit (Atman)... who is steadfast alike under praise or blame;
25. 'Who looks equally upon honour or dishonour, and behaves alike with friend or foe, such is he who transcends the Gunas.
26. 'And he who serves Me and only Me, with unfaltering devotion, shall overcome the Gunas and become One with My Being.

27. 'For I am the refuge of the individual Spirit (Atman): the eternal and unchanging source of immortality, of eternal Righteousness and of infinite Joy.'

Thus in the Holy Book the Bhagavad-Gita, one of the Upanishads, in the Science of the Supreme Spirit, in the Art of Self-Knowledge, in the dialogue between the Divine Lord Krishna and the Prince Arjuna, stands the fourteenth chapter, entitled: 'The Three Gunas'.

Pause for Meditation

In a recent paper we quoted the Shankaracharya as saying that every true Religion has the same eternal essence which he recalls Sanatan, the religion of the Atman (the Divine Self). When I quoted to him a verse or two from that marvellous first chapter of St. John's Gospel – 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...', he nodded and smiled as if it were very familiar to him.

So as Christmas approaches, any true Christian will long to understand and experience that same Christian message as going on *here and now*:

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to such as believe on his name... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among *us*, and *we* beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

And then our Lord's own words:

Come unto Me, all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly of heart and ye shall find rest to your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

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A very happy Christmas to you and your families, no matter what happens in the world around.

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